

REMARKS

This application is amended in a manner believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1, 6, 9 and 10 are amended. Support for the amendment may be found generally throughout the specification, for example, in the Embodiments disclosed.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 remain pending in the application.

The Official Action objects to claims 1, 7 and 10 for having informalities.

As to claims 1 and 10, applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's suggestion for amending the claims to overcome the objection, i.e., the deletion of "supporting". Claims 1 and 10 have been amended accordingly.

As to claim 7, the Official Action objects to claim 7 for fail to further limiting claim 6 because the Examiner understands the "sufficient amount" recited in claim 6 to be limited to 0.002-3.0% by weight recited in claim 7. This objection is respectfully traversed.

The range recited in claim 7 is a *preferred* range. For example, more than 3.0% is a sufficient amount to increase the treating rate, but this amount is not as economical as the preferred range. See, e.g., the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the present specification. Thus, claim 7 does further limit

claim 6, as claim 6 includes weights outside the preferred range of claim 7.

Therefore, in view of the above, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1, 7, and 10 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Specifically, claims 1, 6 and 9 are rejected for reciting "non-metal oxide". Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's suggestion to recite "non-oxide metal" for clarity. Claims 1, 6 and 9 are amended to recite "non-oxide metal".

Claims 1 and 9 are also rejected for reciting "at least one metal among group-VII metals and silver" in manner that is unclear to whether the group VII metals are to be considered in combination with silver or as alternatives to silver.

However, the claims are amended in a manner consistent with the specification to recite "at least one metal selected from the group consisting of group-VII metals and silver". Support may be found, for example, in Embodiments 1-4, which include one group VII metal, and Embodiments 5-7, which include two group VII metals and silver.

Therefore, the claims are definite, and withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is respectfully requested.

The Official Action did not impose any art rejections.

In view of the above, applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis are therefore respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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